Manufacture of salt.

195. *MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the result of the experiments made by the Department of Industries to find out the best method of manufacturing salt in the local *alloms*?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The object of the experiments was to produce a better yield of salt of superior quality. Utilising the brine used in the surrounding pans and under similar conditions, the experimental manufacture has resulted in the production of salt of superior quality with a higher yield.

Working of the Government Press.

196. * MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether, some 11 or 12 years before, a Committee of officials and non-officials was appointed by Government to look into and report about the working of the Government Press;

(*b*) what action was taken on the report submitted by the Committee;

(*c*) what are the scales of pay of the several posts in the Reading and Office Sections sanctioned in the proceedings on the report of the Committee:

(*d*) what the scales of the respective posts are now (1-3-111); and

(*e*) if the scales are considerably reduced, the reason for such reduction?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes. in 1923.

(*b*) Such of the recommendations and proposals of the Committee as were found practicable and necessary were accepted and brought into effect.

(*c*) and (*d*) A * statement containing the information is laid on the table.

(*e*) The reductions were made mainly to effect retrenchment and as a result of standardisation.

The Dental Surgeon, General Hospital.

197. * MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state

(*a*) whether there is any Dental Expert employed in the General Hospital;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the name, qualification and salary of the said Expert; and

(*c*) the nature of the treatment given to the patients who go over there?

Vide Appendix IX.

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RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) Yes,

(*b*) Mr. A. M. Clement L. R. C. P., L. R. C. S., L. R. F. P. & S. (Glas), & L. D. S. R. C. S. (Edin). Rs. 175 per mensem.

(*c*) The nature of treatment depends upon the nature of the cases.

The General Hospital.

198. ❋ **MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) how many medical officers are employed at present in the General Hospital ;

(*b*) how many of them are engaged in the out-patient ward and how many in the in-patient ward ; and

(*c*) how many patients on an average in a month there are in the in-patient ward and how many patients attend the out-patient ward ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) 21 Medical Officers including the Assistant Superintendent and the four Honorary House Surgeons.

(*b*) Two Medical Officers are in the Out-patient Dispensary, five are in the Special Departments, *viz.*, two in the X-ray, one in the Ear, Nose and Throat, one in the Dental and one in the Clinical Laboratory and the rest in the In-patient wards.

(*c*) 13,297 patients in the in-patient wards and 12,356 in the out-patient dispensary.

Fish Curing.

199. ❋ **MR. G. NILAKANTAN** (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the quantity of fish cured annually in the Government fish curing yards ; and

(*b*) the quantity of fish cured in the private curing yards, in Travancore ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) There are 12 Fish Curing Yards under the control of the Department and full details regarding the quantity of fish cured in these institutions annually are given in the Administration Reports of the Department.

(*b*) So far as Government are aware, there are no fish curing yards worth the name owned by private individuals. But small quantities of fish are being cured by fishermen as well as members of some other communities in their own premises. There is no agency at present for the collection of statistics relating to the quantity of fish thus cured and it is not therefore possible to supply the information asked for by the member.

Martandam Rural Centre.

200. ❋ **MR. G. NILAKANTAN** (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

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